

BAKEWELL  
Rural District Council.

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ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

NORTH RURAL SANITARY  
DISTRICT,

For the Year 1908,

BY

PHILIP S. FENTEM, M.D.,

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

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ALFRED HAWES,

CLERK.



CATCLIFF, BAKEWELL,

January 4, 1909.

*To the Chairman and Members of the Bakewell  
Rural District Council.*

My Lord Duke and Gentlemen,

In presenting to your Council my thirty-sixth Annual Report I have much diffidence in doing so, especially after the severe criticism the Annual Report experienced a year ago, when it came up for consideration before your Authority.

It was suggested that my report contained a good deal of unnecessary information, and that it was principally made up of recapitulations of statements made in previous reports, which the Rural District Council did not require. The only matter for regret to me is, that it has been necessary for me year after year to direct your Council's attention to the need for the same sanitary reforms, which have not been attempted. The only material alteration that has taken place in my district since my Annual Report for 1907 was written, will be found in the Vital statistics, which are always changing, and, with that exception, I might well ask your Council to consider that report again.

In the directions I receive from the Honourable The Local Government Board relative to the drawing up of Annual Reports appear the following:—"With regard to the preceding points, it should be remembered that these reports are for the information of the Board and of the County Council as well as of the Council of the District, and that a statement of the local circumstances and a history of local sanitary questions, which may seem superfluous for the latter, may often be needed by the former bodies."

I am ready to believe that those members of the Council who so severely criticised my last annual report on the question of "superfluity" were unaware of this order.

As is my custom, I quote the heads of the various sections as laid down in Article 18 (section 14) of the Board's Order of March, 1891.

*(1) Physical Features and General Character of the District  
and General Conditions of its Population.*

This was so fully described in my reports for 1903 and 1907, that I need not trouble you with further detail.

(2) *Chief Occupations of the Inhabitants of the District, and the Influence of any particular occupation on Public Health.*

The information under this section was fully given in the report for 1903 and has not varied.

(3) *House Accommodation.*

The houses which were built many years ago, to which I referred in the report for 1907 as being the least satisfactory, are gradually being improved or pulled down, and replaced by cottages and houses of a more modern type and better design. So far as relates to "cleanliness of surroundings." This condition would be materially improved if satisfactory systems of scavenging were more universally adopted throughout the district, and further, as I have frequently pointed out in other reports, much improvement would follow the removal of the old-fashioned privy midden, with its large, often unroofed, pit; a more active crusade might very usefully be carried out against these insanitary places. Whilst on this subject, I would refer you to a tabulated list of the defects found, which I drew up last year: pages 4 and 5 of the Annual Report, 1907.

*Supervision over Erection of New Houses.*

After several years advocacy on my part, building bye-laws were eventually adopted by the Council. The pity is my suggestions were not acted upon years ago, for houses built during the years they were under consideration and before their adoption are those which give trouble to-day, and which have often to undergo structural alterations of one kind or other.

*Action under Parts i. ii. and iii. of the Housing Act.*

Inspections of houses referred to under this section are frequently made with the object of detecting anything dangerous to health, especially in the old type of house previously referred to. No notices have, however, had to be issued under this Act. Any notices that have had to be served were issued under the Public Health Act, 1875.

*Water Supply of the District, &c.*

The only material change I have to report as having taken place during the year, and since I described the condition of the Water Supply of the whole of my District in the Annual Report for 1903, is that Tideswell has provided, by voluntary rate, a service reservoir sufficiently large to supply themselves,

and, in addition, to provide a supply of water to the neighbouring village of Litton. This service was opened in the Autumn of 1908, and one of the difficult problems before your Council, the water supply of Litton, has, by voluntary effort, been solved.

Those Townships which I reported as being in need of an improved water supply in my Annual Report for 1907 and previous years, are still in the same need of this most necessary provision, they are in alphabetical order as follows:—

Blackwell,  
Flagg,  
Foolow,  
Hucklow, Great,  
Hucklow, Little,  
Wardlow.

The Townships requiring an improved supply are:—

Eyam (the main portion), and  
Grindlow.

In more than one of these Townships the need at times is a most urgent one, but the existence of this urgency I have frequently brought under your observation.

In my monthly report to your Authority bearing date February 7, 1908, I directed your attention to the fact that it had come to my knowledge that persons taking their water supply from The Stoke Flatt Mains were suffering from illness, the cause of which was attributed to the absorption of lead. By the courtesy of the medical gentleman in attendance on the person affected, I was enabled to investigate the cause myself, clinically as well as from a public health point of view. I found that the houses in which the persons were chiefly affected had the water conducted through lengths of lead piping varying from thirteen to twenty-nine yards. I was of opinion that the symptoms were undoubtedly due to lead absorption.

The monthly report dated February 7th, 1908, continues:—  
“As I pointed out to you when this source of supply was first suggested, that the analysis showed it to be a soft water, and, as a result of that softness, a water likely to dissolve lead from lengths of lead piping. I further advised that this possibility of lead absorption due to the want of hardness, could be remedied by adding lime to the water in the reservoir or by filtering the water through lime. I advised the former not only on the ground of its cheapness and extreme simplicity, but also because, in practice, it had been found more effective than filtering the water through lime.”

After this report was read to your Council, you gave instructions that water from houses where the infected persons resided should be analysed. I had two samples of water sent to the Analyst, and in my monthly report dated March 6, 1908, I say:—"I append the Analyst's Report, I hope a perusal of it will convince your Council of the gravity of the situation. I have taken every precaution in my power to further protect the persons living in the known danger zone from the risks of further lead poisoning." Being of opinion that more should be done than had been to deal with this matter, I reminded you in July, 1908, that I intended the addition of quicklime to the water at its source as a temporary measure only, and I asked you to take into consideration the advisability of adopting prophylactic measures of a more permanent character. I must repeat that I advised the addition of lime in February as a means of dealing temporarily with a matter of extreme urgency, and I would press upon your consideration the need there is of making more lasting provision for the purpose of limiting, as far as possible, the undoubted plumbo solvent action of the water supplied by the Stoke Flatt Scheme.

The Analyst, in his report, says:— . . . . "Upon analysis I found lead to be present in the following amounts, expressed in grains per gallon.

The clearer water.	The more turbid.
Lead ... 0·14	0·875

"These figures correspond in the first case to the one-seventh, and in the other to seven-eight's of a grain. Both these amounts are dangerous to the consumers, indeed, the latter sample must expose the users to very grave risks of poisoning."

(Signed.)

J. WHITE.

### *Milk Supply.*

A considerable quantity of milk is sent from this district to various large towns, especially Manchester. The character and wholesomeness of the milk is good. In one case only was milk found to contain tubercle bacilli, and the owner had the animal disposed of.

The Cowsheds on the register have been examined and structural alterations in some of them have been carried out.

It was not found necessary to take proceedings for destruction of articles of food as being unfit for human consumption, and no carcasses or parts of carcasses of meat were condemned as being affected with tuberculosis.



### *Slaughter-Houses.*

Under the heading of Slaughter-houses I have nothing to add or take from what I said in my Annual Report for 1907, which was a resumé of the condition of those places as they were in 1903. The condition of many of these places is an unsatisfactory feature in my district. I am aware it is difficult to have ideal Slaughter-houses in sparsely populated rural districts, but much might be done in the way of improvement. I did hope after what I said on this subject in my Annual Report for 1903, that marked all round improvement would have been found before now.

### *Sewerage and Drainage.*

Its sufficiency in all parts of the District. In five of the townships only has a complete system of sewerage and drainage been undertaken, four by your Council and one by private enterprise.

Four of the larger townships, at least, are urgently in need of a sewerage system. These are the same places I have indicated in previous Annual Reports, so that I need not recapitulate them here.

The sewers and house drains in those townships, other than those provided with a sewerage system, consist mainly of rubble walled channels. These channels are carried outside the village and there they end, without special provision for the treatment of any of their contents which may happen to reach as far.

In my Annual Report for 1907, and in Monthly Reports I have directed your attention to the fact that at Grindleford Bridge and Nether Padley, extensive building operations have taken place and others are in early contemplation, and there is every prospect that in the future the construction of houses in this locality will be even more extensive. I have pointed out that at present no means of dealing with this increasing volume of sewerage existed, beyond discharging it directly into the river Derwent, and I advised that a joint scheme for Grindleford Bridge and Nether Padley be undertaken by your authority. I would again put before you the advisability of your considering this suggestion, whilst land for the purpose is still to be obtained, at any rate if nothing more is done, it would be a wise precaution to secure a site in a suitable situation, on which sewerage works might be erected. If this opportunity is much longer delayed, it will be more difficult to obtain suitable land, and of course the cost will be considerably greater. This question cannot be delayed much longer.

*Pollution of Rivers and Streams in the District.*

This occurs directly or indirectly from Bradwell, Calver, Eyam, Nether Padley, Eyam Woodlands, Froggatt and other places. These places are equally innocent of any other means of sewerage disposal.

*Excrement Disposal: System in vogue: Defects.*

There are approximately 1800 privy middens and 300 pail closets in the District in addition to 294 water and 23 slopwater closets. The question of providing land upon which to dispose of the contents of these 2,100 closets or privy middens requiring periodical emptying becomes more and more pressing as time goes on, for there is a decreasing demand for this form of material by agriculturalists. The difficulty of disposing of it is to some extent due to the fact that articles are added which should go to the refuse tip, and to some extent that its value as a fertiliser is not great.

*Removal and Disposal of House Refuse.*

Public Scavenging of a sort has been undertaken at Bradwell, Calver, Eyam, and Hathersage; In each instance you have delegated your powers to the respective Parish Councils. It is the least satisfactorily done at Eyam, work of this kind ought not to be delegated, it ought most certainly to be carried out by your own workmen under the control of your Sanitary Officers, and until this course is adopted there will be no uniformity in the way the work is done.

*Nuisances: Proceedings for their Abatement.*

Whenever a nuisance has come under observation notice is served upon those responsible. This notice gives a detailed account of nuisance complained of the work necessary for its abatement, and specified time within which the work must be completed. If this notice is ignored after the time given has elapsed a final notice is served, and failing attention to that legal action would follow. It has however not been necessary during the past year to appeal to the law courts under this head.

**BYE-LAWS.**

*(1) Common Lodging-houses.*

Two common lodging-houses are licensed in my District, both at Stoney Middleton; they have been frequently inspected by both the Sanitary Inspector and myself. The one that has given us so much trouble in previous years has, during the year under review, been better managed.



(2) *Offensive Trades.*

No offensive trades are now carried on in the District.

(3) *Slaughter-houses.*

There are, approximately, 14 slaughter-houses in the District. They are periodically inspected. I have alluded to their unsatisfactory state in an earlier portion of this report.

*Schools.*

There are twenty-four Elementary Schools in the North division of the Bakewell Rural District. They have been subjected to inspection. A few of the Schools, especially those recently built or recently reconstructed are satisfactory, but many of the others contain features with regard to closet accommodation, cloak-rooms, lavatories, ventilation and lighting which are far from satisfactory. Thirteen of the Schools have for closet accommodation the old-fashioned privy midden, all with undefined midden steads, and nine with the midden unroofed. Four of these Schools so furnished are in townships in which has been provided a sewerage system.

*Action taken in relation to the Health of the Scholars, &c.*

As soon as I become aware of the existence of infectious illness amongst the scholars in any School or of a school age, or in the houses of such children, Notices are sent to Managers of Day and Sunday Schools notifying them of the existence of such illness, advising the exclusion of children from such houses for periods which are specified.

During the year the following Schools were closed in the specified months for the infectious illness indicated :—

Eyam, October, Mumps.

Grindleford, October, Whooping Cough and Chicken Pox.

Hathersage, September, Measles.

Hucklow, May and October, Whooping Cough.

*Methods of Dealing with Infectious Disease.***NOTIFICATION.**

In 1906 Measles was added to the list of the Infectious Diseases in which notification is necessary. On receipt of a notification of Infectious Disease, especially of those which can be dealt with, the place is visited. Advice is given as to the best means of isolation, disinfectants are supplied where necessary and their use explained. Printed directions suitable to each form of disease are given to those in charge of the patient, detailing the proper method of management, so as to prevent, as far as possible, the spread of the infection.

### ISOLATION HOSPITAL ACCOMMODATION.

Six beds are the extent of the provision for the isolation of Infectious Disease. These six beds are for the treatment of one disease only, Scarlet Fever, and have to serve a district with a population of about 36,000 persons. More accommodation than this is needed, and for diseases other than Scarlet Fever.

### DISINFECTION.

This is carried out by the Sanitary Inspector, and in every case of the usual notifiable diseases disinfection has taken place after the termination of the illness.

Formalin is used as the disinfectant in my District, and this is applied in the form of a spray, by means of an Equifex Spray Producer. This is followed by a thorough washing of the rooms and contents with a solution of Carbolic Acid or Izal. The persons in charge are advised to expose all infected rooms and anything that may have been in contact with the patients freely to the air.

The urgent need for a disinfectant for clothes and bedding I have previously pressed upon you.

### METHODS OF CONTROL OF TUBERCULOSIS.

No system of notification of cases of pulmonary tuberculosis is in operation in the District, nor is hospital accommodation for such cases provided.

### INCIDENCE OF DISEASE.

During the year under review I received notification of 128 cases of notifiable disease. These included 2 cases of Diphtheria; 1 case of Erysipelas; 9 cases of Scarlet Fever; 3 cases of Enteric Fever, and 113 cases of Measles.

Two of the cases of Enteric Fever were traced to the eating of uncooked fruit; the other case was contracted outside the District, the victim travelling to his home from Herefordshire with the disease developed. You will be interested to know that the notification of the 113 cases of Measles cost for certificates £14 2s. 6d. The benefit to set against this outlay is practically nil.

### *Factories and Workshops.*

At the close of 1908 the number of Factories and Workshops in the district remains practically the same in number as in the previous year. Most of the registered workshops are only very small places in which one or two people are employed. Every workshop and workplace, as well as every bakehouse, has

been regularly inspected. The sanitary condition of each bake-house is, from time to time during the year, the subject of enquiry, their condition is satisfactory. Section 22 of the Public Health Acts (Amendment) Act, 1890, is not in force in the District. There are no underground bakehouses in the District.

#### SYSTEMATIC INSPECTION.

In addition to the ordinary inspections of the District which are regularly being made, more particular systematic inspections of some parts of the District have also been made.

#### *Vital and other Statistical Tables.*

The Tabular Statements of Sickness and Mortality in the District during the year will be found set out on the forms supplied by the Local Government Board for that purpose. These tables give the names of every Township where notifiable illness has existed, with the number of cases in each locality; the causes of and ages at death of persons in every township; the Vital Statistics of each separate locality, as well as the Vital Statistics of the whole District during 1908 and ten previous years, and the Infantile Mortality during 1908. I would recommend their perusal to everyone interested in the welfare of the District.

I have the honour to be,

My Lord Duke and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

PHILIP S. FENTEM.

